

Sir

Boston May 28th 1776

m 269

In consequence of your Letter to M^r. Bant he applied to me to go Philadelphia and in compliance with your desire expressed therein - I gave up the business I was in put myself to some considerable expence which was necessary to the going so far from Home. I had got all ready & expected to have set out with M^r. Bant on yesterday morning - but M^r. Winthrop arrived here on Sabbath evening - and he having orders from you to return to Philadelphia with your Books papers and your direction to him as also your letter by him to M^r. Bant you mention his or my coming to Philadelphia which implied that you did not expect both of us & this was Winthrop's opinion from what you said to him - and M^r. Bant determining to go I gave up the thought of going tho' much to my mortification & disappointment after having gone so far - but as the expence of my going must have been considerable to you - and when I got to Philadelphia to have found myself not expected or wanted by you would have put me in a disagreeable situation -

I should continue disengaged till I could hear from you again - but M^r. Bant expecting to have the settling your affairs for you & M^r. Winthrop returning to you it seems as if I should not be wanted on that score - and as the support of my family at a time when every Necessary of Life is greatly enhanced requires that my whole time be employed for that purpose -

I have tho't it most prudent to endeavour to retain my old birth at least for the present or until something better turn up - and as the Gen^l. Court comes together tomorrow should I not then endeavour to retain my place it no doubt would be immediately supplied by some other person and I should be destitute of any employment perhaps for some considerable time -

I think you can't have any doubt of my readiness

to

I heartily Condole with you & your Lady in the loss of
your much beloved Aunt - my best respects to your
Lady & believe me to be with the greatest regard

John Lowell



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MS. 269 (1)

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The Hon^{ble} John Hancock Esq.

Philadelphia —

Letter from John Hancock
written 28 May 1776 —